

May 18, 2023

Administrator Michael Regan
Environmental Protection Agency
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Director Smith,

I'm writing today to express my concern about the public health threat posed by rapid mosquito population growth and mosquito-borne diseases associated with standing water from flooding in San Joaquin County. Additionally, I ask for your guidance on how communities like mine can minimize mosquito population growth after large-scale flooding.

As you know, California has been dealing with historic flooding that is impacting communities all across the state. In Acampo, California, flood water resulting from January storms sat above ground for weeks. Our communities are now bracing for a historic snowpack melt, with parts of the Sierra Mountains holding anywhere from 279-447% of the annual average of snow water. With mosquito season coinciding with the historic snowpack melt, the increase in stagnant water means more breeding grounds for dangerous mosquito species and upticks in potential for Zika, West Nile Virus, and other mosquito-borne diseases.

Given the EPA collaborates with the Centers for Disease Control on mosquito control activities, I'm reaching out to better understand the following:

- How does the EPA work to curb population growth and the transmission of mosquito-borne diseases?
- How does the EPA apply an integrated pest management approach when dealing with an emergency such as the recent flooding in California?
- How would the EPA advise localities to deal with the threat of acute mosquito population growth stemming from standing flood water?

The EPA plays a critical role in controlling mosquito populations. Knowing that mosquitoes can develop from an egg to biting people in as little as five days, it's critical that EPA collaborates with communities like the ones in my district. This work will ensure that communities that are at-risk of flooding have the latest guidance on how to prevent and mitigate mosquito population growth and illnesses that inevitably come with flooding.

I look forward to your prompt attention and response to this critical public health issue facing the people of San Joaquin County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Harder". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Josh Harder
Member of Congress